THE PUNISHER®

MARVEL

EDMONDSON
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013

FRANK CASTLE was once a decorated Marine officer, an upstanding citizen and family man. Then his family was violently taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a mob hit. From that day on, Frank Castle shed his old identity and became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism known as

THE PUNISHER

PREVIOUSLY

Frank Castle has set his formidable sights on The Dos Soles, an extremely powerful and ambitious gang based out of Los Angeles. His path has been made all the more difficult by the Howling Commandos, an elite military squad with secret orders to take down The Punisher at all costs.

After a number of failed attempts to bring Frank down, the Commandos have made it personal, capturing the family of Frank's only remaining relative and holding them in a Los Angeles hotel in the midst of an explosion of gang violence to lure Frank out. And now, they wait…

WHAT I LEARNED IN CEBU

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LOS ANGELES. NOW.

I'M GOING OUT. RUBY RED, I WANT YOU ON OVERWATCH.

MYERS, YOU MOVE THE FAMILY ON MY COMMAND. WE ASSUME HE'S DONE HIS OWN INTEL GATHERING.

HE'S POWERFUL, BUT HE'S ALONE. WE USE ***TEAMWORK*** TO OUR ADVANTAGE. ROTATE THE WHEEL, SPIN HIS ATTENTION.

I'M NOT SURE WE SHOULD FEEL SO CONFIDENT. HE HASN'T PROVED THAT EASY TO KILL SO FAR... HE'S MADE US LOOK LIKE AMATEURS, SIDEWINDER.

WHEN HE'S AT THE HOTEL, WE SPRING THE TRAP.

THE PLACE HAS BEEN EVACUATED WITH THE RIOTS ANYWAY.

YOU FEEL OKAY USING A FAMILY AS BAIT?

THIS IS WAR, WE'RE WARRIORS. I KNOW YOU'RE STILL REELING FROM THE PHILIPPINES...FROM BUZZK--

I'M ***FINE***, ADAM, I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE THE PUNISHER WAS A FOREIGN ENEMY.

FOLLOW THE ***ORDERS***, RUBY RED. JUST LIKE ALWAYS.

FOR ALL THREATS, FOREIGN--AND DOMESTIC.

CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES.
SIX MONTHS AGO.

HOWLIN' COMMANDOS, ON MY MARK.

INFIL. PROCEED TO TARGET. EXECUTE OBJECTIVE. EXFIL. FOLLOW SIDEWINDER'S ORDERS.

NOW!

WOOOO!

SIMPLE. DIRECT. BLACK AND WHITE.

YOU NEED AN EMBASSY LIBERATED, YOU CALL THE RANGERS.

I GOT IT ON MY HUD, SIDEWINDER.

COPY THAT, BUZZKILL.

RUBY RED, MYERS, ON MY SIX...

TOUCHDOWN IN THREE... TWO...

IF YOU NEED *GHOSTS* TO DO IT, WHO DON'T LEAVE A TRACE...

...YOU CALL THE PRESIDENT, THE ONLY ONE WITH THE LINE TO THE MOST ELITE DIRECT ACTION SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP ON THE PLANET:

YOU CALL THE HOWLIN' COMMANDOS. C SQUADRON, F-TEAM. SIDEWINDER'S TEAM.

MY TEAM.

SIDEWINDER.

MYERS.

ME.

B POS

BUZZKILL.

MYERS, GET US A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW.

ON IT.

LET'S SEE WHERE WE ARE.

WE NEED TO GET HIGH AND FINE-LINE OVER TO THE THIRD STORY FROM THE OTHER SIDE HERE. BUT THEY'LL HAVE SCOUTS ON THE ROOFTOP ACROSS THE STREET.

GET IN. KILL THE RESISTANCE. LIBERATE THE EMBASSY.

AND GET TO THE BEACH.

YOU WORK ON YOUR TAN, MYERS. I'M GOING TO CLEAN MY GUNS.

AND CATCH UP ON *RIZZOLI & ISLES*. OR IS IT *THE CLOSER*?

MY DVR IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

GET A ROOM ALREADY, WOULD YOU TWO?

OKAY, FIREFLY FEED IS UP.

AND SHE COULDN'T HANDLE ME.

LET'S MOVE OUT AND KILL SOME TERRORISTS.

AND MYERS, MY MONEY IS ON MOFFLY ANY DAY OF THE WEEK. I'VE SEEN YOU BOTH AT P.T.

SO, TORCHIA, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU CONVINCE THE SECRETARY TO GIVE US A WEEK OFF...

CUT YOUR GUT IF YOU DON'T KEEP TO CODENAMES, BUZZKILL.

I MIGHT SLEEP.

HOLD ON. DOES MYERS EVEN *HAVE* A CODENAME?

THIS PLACE IS A GHOST TOWN.

THIS IS WHAT A COUP DOES TO A PLACE.

THIS IS OUR FOURTEENTH MISSION AS A TEAM.

THIS ISN'T A *COUP*. IT'S TERRORISM. TERRORISTS CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THEIR ROCKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SCURRIED INTO THE PHILIPPINES...

WORK AIN'T EVER DONE.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE PAID HOURLY.

NO, I'M NOT.

...WAIT. *AM I?*

YECK!

WHOA! IT WAS JUST A RAT!

FOURTEENTH AND COUNTING.

THOK

THOK

MAYBE LET'S CUT DOWN ON THE CHITCHAT BEFORE--

GRRRRRRR

HOLD BACK. DON'T SHOOT HIM.

...EASY BUDDY. EAAAAASY.

WE'RE JUST PASSING THROUGH.

WHEW...

LET'S PUSH FORWARD MORE QUICKLY. WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE EMBASSY, FIND SOMEONE FOR MOFFLY TO SHOOT BEFORE SHE GOES HUNTING IN THE ZOO.

SPOOKY.

WE POST UP OUR LIVES FOR THE OBJECTIVE.

WE POST OUR LIVES UP FOR ONE ANOTHER. FOURTEEN TIMES AND COUNTING. AS A TEAM. AS *THIS* TEAM.

ONE HOUR LATER.
CITY CENTER.

RUBY RED IN OVERWATCH POSITION.

ADVANCING TO WINDOWS, RUBY RED. MARK TANGO ONE...

I'LL DO HIM UP PRETTY, SIDEWINDER. THREE...TWO...

THOK

TANGO ONE DOWN, SIDEWINDER. BUZZKILL, MYERS PROCEED.

NEARLY IN POSITION... EXECUTING NOW...

GACK!

READY FINELINES.

WE ARE A PRECISE INSTRUMENT OF WAR WITH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

LIKE THE SPARTANS CARRIED THE LEGACY OF HERAKLES...

...WE CARRY THE LEGACY OF NICK FURY, OF THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RED SKULL...

...FOLDED INTO THE SHADOWS, GIVEN A CONSTANT PURPOSE...

...THE SPEAR THAT WAS FURY'S HOWLING COMMANDOS WAS SHARPENED TO A RAZOR'S EDGE, AND HURLED INTO THE BLACK...

...DESIGNATED THE "131."

FWAK FWAK

WE ARE THE MOST DEADLY MILITARY WARRIORS ON THE PLANET. SIDEWINDER'S F-TEAM IS THE MOST CAPABLE OF ALL THE 131 TEAMS.

I'M TOLD A TIGER'S EYES TURN FROM GOLD TO GREEN THE MOMENT BEFORE IT KILLS.

IF YOU SEE THE GREEN, IT'S THE LAST THING YOU EVER SEE.

IN THAT SENSE, EVERY COMMANDO HAS GREEN EYES.

GREEN AS EMERALD.

BREATHE. WATCH. WAIT. STAY LOOSE.

WHEN THEY RECRUITED ME, THEY ASKED IF I WAS A TRUE BELIEVER...

...COULD I KILL WITHOUT HESITATION?

CAN I GO HOME WITHOUT DREAMS?

THE T.V. SHOWS HELP WITH THAT.

WHAT DID THEY REALLY MEAN, THOUGH? WHAT WERE THEY REALLY ASKING?

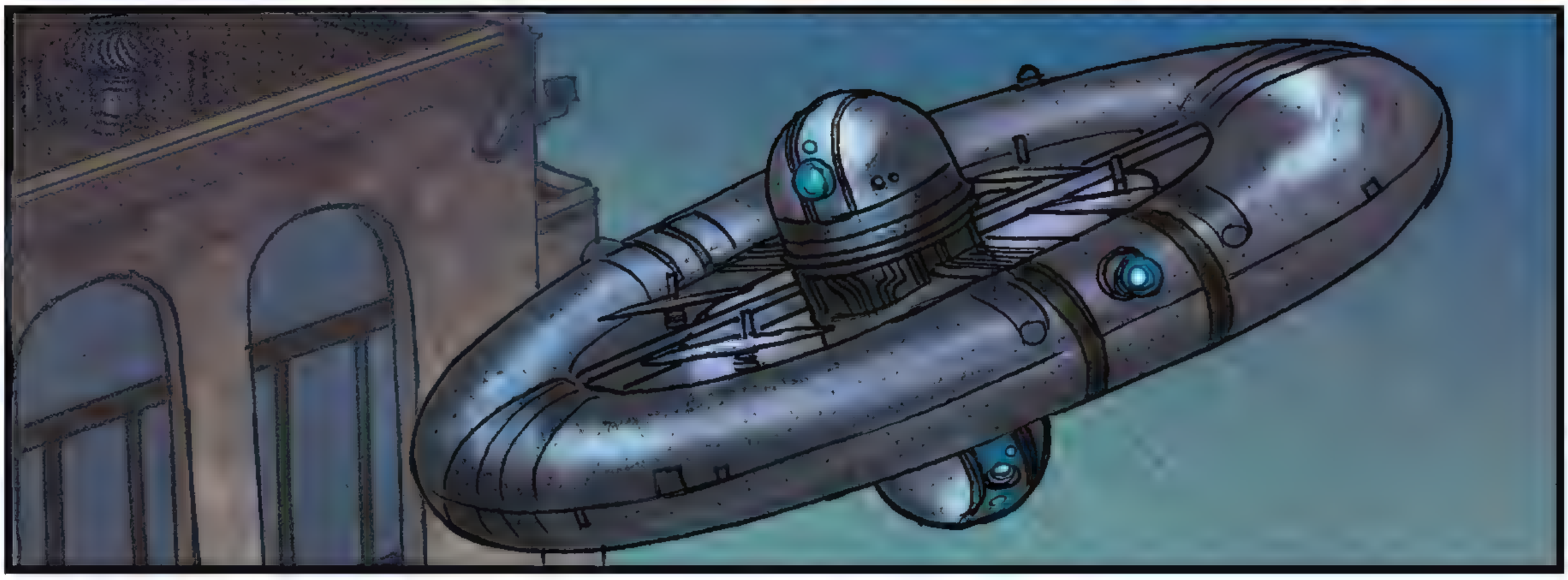
THAT'S SOMETHING I FIGURED OUT IN CEBU CITY.

COVER READY ON SIGNAL FOR EXFIL.

‹HAVE THE HOSTAGES READY. IF THEY CAUSE TROUBLE, YOU MAY KILL JUST ONE. WE HOLD THEM UNTIL WE GET THE SIGNAL. WE DON'T MOVE UNTIL OUR AIR SUPPORT COMES IN.›

‹YES, SIR.›
‹AIR SUPPORT WILL BOMB THE CITY, THEN WE SNEAK OUT WITH THE HOSTAGES..›

KLIK



NOW, RUBY RED.

COPY, BUZZKILL.

THWACK

THWACK

ALL GUARDS DOWN.

DRONE LASER DECOY... NOW.

TAKE 'EM OUT, COMMANDOS!

WE HAVE A GOOD BREACH.

...YOU HEARD HIM SAY *AIR SUPPORT* AND *BOMBS*, RIGHT.

I HEARD IT AND I DON'T LIKE IT. OUR INTEL SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE ENEMY HAVING THOSE RESOURCES.

OUR ADVANCE INTEL SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT A LARGER INVASION.

UNLESS THEY CHOSE *NOT* TO TELL US.

OKAY... LET'S GET THESE PEOPLE TO SAFETY.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I FEAR ON THE BATTLEFIELD:

COMMANDING OFFICERS I CAN'T TRUST.

WELL, LET'S HOOF IT. MY ARMOR ISN'T RATED AGAINST BOMBS.

WE MAY BE TOO LATE...

MOFFLY, YOU HEAR THAT?

HMMMMMMMMMMMM

MOVE! CLEAR THE AREA! GO! GO!

I CAN TRUST SIDEWINDER.

BUZZKILL! GET TO COVER!

C'MON, KID, LET'S GET SOMEWHERE SAFE BEFORE--

BUZZ? BUZZ?!

BUZZ!

HE'S GONE, RUBY!

WE'RE NOT LEAVING HIS *BODY!*

THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE ASKING ME ABOUT, DURING RECRUITMENT.

PUT A T-BOMB UNDER HIM.

YOU *CAN'T* BE SERIOUS.

YOU DON'T HEAR THE BOMBERS OVERHEAD? WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE!

WHAT THEY WERE REALLY ASKING WAS IF I COULD DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

CAN'T LEAVE ANY PROOF WE WERE HERE.

M-(HU)
DISINTEG

EVEN IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T STOMACH.

THEY WANTED TO KNOW IF I HAD THE GRIT FOR THE WORK, EVEN WHEN MY TEAMMATES WERE FALLING DOWN BESIDE ME.

FOURTEEN MISSIONS AND COUNTING. MY STOMACH HAS REMAINED STEEL AND GRAVEL.

WE'RE ALL OF US REPLACEABLE.

WE'RE HOWLING COMMANDOS.

WE GET THE JOB DONE.

FT. BRAGG/SECRET ANNEX.

COMMERCIAL? HELL NO. I'M GOING TO STEAL ONE OF THE HOWLIN' COMMANDO JETS. LAND IT RIGHT ON THE BEACH--

YOU DO THAT. I'LL WATCH IT ON THE NEWS. RIGHT BETWEEN EPISODES OF RIZZOLI--

CHARLIE TEAM!

247PM Z

COLONEL.

WELCOME HOME, COMMANDOS.

NOW TURN RIGHT BACK AROUND. I HAVE ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT ALREADY UPLOADED TO THE TEAM SERVER.

COPY THAT, SIR.

THANK GOD FOR DVR...

I ALWAYS PEGGED YOU FOR A CLASSIC MOVIE GIRL, ANYWAY.

THAT'S IN THE OFF SEASON.

THE OTHER THING THAT KEEPS THE DREAMS AWAY?

I STILL HAVE MY HK416. I'LL KEEP THE HOLO-OPTIC CARD I HAVE. I NEED SOME TACTICAL PACKAGE STUFF. EMP GRENADES-- GOT THOSE?

MORE WORK.

I'M SURE I CAN PULL SOME UP. YOU NEED GUIDED ROUNDS?

I MIGHT. GRAB A MAG.

GIVE ME A TARGET. SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON.

MOFFLY, DON'T YOU THINK THAT HK416 IS TOO HEAVY? ESPECIALLY WITH THE MODS.

MAYBE FOR YOU WITH THOSE NOODLE ARMS. TRY A PULL-UP, MYERS. MOFFLY'S A BIG GIRL.

A BULLET. A BODY. AN ENEMY.

RIGHT BACK INTO IT.

WE'LL MISS RANDY'S FUNERAL.

MISSION PARAMETERS

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. UT VARIUS LIBERO NUNC, MALESUADA SOLLICITUDIN ODIO FINIBUS NON. MAURIS GRAVIDA AUCTOR MOLLIS. SUSPENDISSE POTENTI. SED BIBENDUM DIGNISSIM ANTE, VEHICULA VULPUTATE DOLOR ALIQUET NON. SED IACULIS UT NULLA VEL VARIUS. SUSPENDISSE NEC MI LAOREET, TEMPUS DIAM EU, DAPIBUS NULLA. UT CONSEQUAT VITAE ERAT SIT AMET ORNARE. NULLA SIT AMET ANTE IN NISL DAPIBUS SODALES SED UT ODIO. NULLAM LUCTUS ORCI SIT AMET FELIS ALIQUAM FEUGIAT. LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. UT VARIUS LIBERO NUNC, MALESUADA SOLLICITUDIN ODIO FINIBUS NON. MAURIS GRAVIDA AUCTOR MOLLIS. SUSPENDISSE POTENTI. SED BIBENDUM

...I HAVE PLENTY NOT TO THINK ABOUT.

WE DON'T GO TO EACH OTHER'S FUNERALS, MYERS.

LOS ANGELES.
NOW.

PIZZA
PIZZA

BEDO

CHECK
CASHING

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, MYERS.

OPEN WIDE. TRIGGER FINGER ITCHY.

SIDEWINDER, IT'S A ZOO DOWN THERE.

WE'RE NOT HERE TO FIGHT A RIOT. KEEP FROSTY, KEEP QUIET.

THERE'S A DOZEN WAYS HE CAN MAKE IT INTO THE BUILDING, TORCHIA.

LET'S HOPE SO.

NOT NERVOUS, ARE YOU? HE'S JUST A MARINE.

NERVOUS? WHO DO YOU THINK I AM-- MYERS?

HEARD THAT, RUBY RED.

IT'S JUST A MIGHTY BIG TRAP.

GO BIG OR GO HOME.

THE HOWLING COMMANDOS ARE A TEAM.

HE'S GOING TO LEARN HOW MUCH THAT PUTS HIM AT A DISADVANTAGE.

NOTHING STANDS IN THE WAY OF OUR OBJECTIVE.

NOTHING AT ALL.